

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 01149 131913Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01
SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SCA-01 SCSE-00 DHA-02 L-03
H-02 INRE-00 USIE-00 DODE-00 /051 W
-----131940Z 028296 /47

O R 131752Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0782
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

UNCLAS VIENNA 1149

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN
SUBJECT: HOFFMAN DETENTION BY CZECHS

PAUL HOFFMAN, VIENNA-BASED NEW YORK TIMESMAN, GAVE THIS
ACCOUNT OF HIS APPROX. 14-HOUR DETENTION BY CZECH AUTHORITIES
12-13FEB 77:

BOARDED VIENNA-BOUND TRAIN IN PRAGUE AT 1445 12 FEB. DURING
STOP IN TREBON, SOME 35 KMS FROM AUSTRIAN BORDER, THREE
UNIFORMED MEN BOARDED TRAIN AND CAME STRAIGHT TO HOFFMAN'S
COMPARTMENT. CHECKED HIS PASSPORT, THEN TOOK HIM AND
HIS LUGGAGE TO SPECIAL COMPARTMENT WHERE THEY EXAMINED ALL
HIS PAPERS. HE WAS MADE TO TURN OUT ALL POCKETS. BY THEN
THE TRAIN HAD REACHED BORDERTOWN OF CESKE VELENICE WHERE THREE
PLAINCLOTHESMEN JOINED PARTY AND TOOK HOFFMAN TO TRAIN
STATION WHERE SEARCH-AND-QUESTION ROUTINE WAS CONTINUED FOR
TWO HOURS. (WHEN TRAIN LEFT FOR VIENNA, HOFFMAN WAS
TOLD HE COULD CATCH SAME TRAIN THE NEXT EVENING.) THE CZECHS
TOOK "A LOT OF PAPERS" FROM HOFFMAN; HE WAS MOST UPSET ABOUT
LOSS OF NOTEBOOKS WHICH CONTAINED NOTES FOR FUTURE ARTICLES.
HE MANAGED TO GET SOME KIND OF RECEIPT FOR WHAT THEY TOOK.
AT 2000 WAS TOLD HE COULD SPEND NIGHT AT HOTEL ONE KM AWAY.
WALKED THERE THROUGH SNOW WITH LUGGAGE BUT WAS TOLD "NO
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VACANCY." EVERYONE VERY RUDE AND/OR DRUNK. RETURNED TO
TRAIN STATION FOR COLD, SLEEPLESS NIGHT IN ACHAIR. AT 0800
NEXT DAY (13FEB) WAS TOLD HE COULD WALK ACROSS BORDER TO
GMUEND IF HE DIDN'T WANT TO WAIT FOR TRAIN. AFTER FINAL
SEARCH AT CZECH CUSTOMS WALKED 3 KM TO GMUEND POLICE STATION.
AUSTRIAN POLICE GAVE HIM HIS FIRST FOOD IN 18 HOURS AND
ARRANGED FOR VW MINIBUS TO TAKE HIM (FOR A PRICE) TO VIENNA,

WHICH HE REACHED IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENNA01149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770051-0582
Format: TEL
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770246/aaaabomd.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7a076ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Date: 22-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3333377
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOFFMAN DETENTION BY CZECHS PAUL HOFFMAN, VIENNA-BASED NEW YORK TIMESMAN, GAVE THIS ACCOUNT OF HIS APPROX. 14-HOUR DETENTION BY CZECH
TAGS: CGEN
To: STATE PRAGUE
Type: TE
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